

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

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SECSTATE FOR EUR/IB DURKEE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: NATO COMMENTARY

1. RECENT NATO COVERAGE BY MADRID DAILIES EMPHASIZED ALLIANCE RECEPTIVITY TO POSSIBLE SPANISH ENTRY. PRESS ALSO NOTED WITHOUT COMMENT UNDERSECRETARY HARTMANN VISIT TO KING AND SPANISH OFFICIALS TO INFORM THEM "OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND RESULTS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING OF MINISTERS," EL PAIS, DECEMBER 14.

2. DECEMBER 14 DAILY YA (CATHOLIC) PUBLISHED FOLLOWING EDITORIAL: "SINCE THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION ONE COULD SEE AN IMPORTANT CHANGE OF ATTITUDE TOWARD SPAIN BY THE NATO COUNTRIES...THE DANGER OF A 'HISTORIC COMPROMISE' IN ITALY...THE DISSATISFACTION OF GREECE... GAVE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN AND IMAGE OF GEOSTRATEGIC CENTER WITHOUT SECURE PROTECTION.

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3. "IT WAS LOGICAL THAT MADRID WAS LOOKED AT FROM BRUSSELS ALMOST WITH BESEECHING EYES...IN FACT, AT THIS MOMENT THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IS DISPOSED TO ACCEPT THE SPANISH PETITION FOR ENTRY...AT THE TIME FOR CONSIDERING THE PROS AND CONS OF THIS POSSIBLE

SPANISH MEMBERSHIP, WE MUST KEEP IN MIND A CERTAIN FACT, RECOGNIZED BY NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS: BY HER TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES, SPAIN ALREADY FINDS HERSELF INTRODUCED INTO THE DEFENSIVE SYSTEM OF THE WEST.

4. "BEGINNING FROM THAT POINT, DOES FULL PARTICIPATION IN NATO INTEREST SPAIN? ON THE ONE HAND, THE NOT NEGLIBIBLE ECONOMIC POST OF PARTICIPATION MUST BE CONSIDERED...ON THE OTHER HAND, IT HAS ALREADY BEEN SAID THAT THE INTEGRATION INTO THE DEFENSE OF THE WEST IS A FACT...WITHOUT NECESSITY FOR ANY NEW 'STATUS.'"

6. "NOW THEN, OPPOSING THESE REASONS WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO ARGUE AGAINST IMMEDIATE ENTRY, THERE IS ONE WHICH FAVORS THIS. THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF SPAIN IN THE ALLIANCE WOULD CONSTITUTE A BIG STEP TOWARD HER INTEGRATION INTO THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY... IN ANY CASE, THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN WILL HAVE TO THOROUGHLY THINK OVER ITS DECISION. AS LUNS HIMSELF SAID...THE THEME WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN UP AFTER THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS." ITEM. RYLANCE

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